

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

### ***Examiner's Amendment***

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott A. McKeown (Reg. 42866) on March 27, 2009.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition method of a content acquisition apparatus, comprising:

~~a request information transmission step of transmitting request information from~~  
the content acquisition apparatus to an external section in response to a request for content data, said request information requesting address information of a plurality of

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content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and data size information of said content data;

~~an information reception step of receiving, at the content acquisition apparatus~~ from said external section said address information of said plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and said data size information of said content data, after transmitting said request information;

~~a division position determination step of determining, at the content acquisition apparatus~~ division start positions and division end positions specifying division parts of said content data to request said content data in divided form from said plurality of content provision apparatus, based on the number of pieces of said address information and said data size information received by said information reception ~~step~~;

~~a division part request information transmission step of transmitting, from the~~ content acquisition apparatus division part request information including content identification information of said content data, and said division start positions and division end positions of said division parts of said content data, such that each said division part is requested from different said content provision apparatus;

~~a division part reception step of receiving, at the content acquisition apparatus~~ said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus after transmitting said division part request information;

~~a temporarily storing step of temporarily storing said division parts received by~~ said division part reception ~~step~~; and

~~a data restoring step of combining said division parts temporarily stored by said temporarily storing step~~ to restore said content data.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~a measurement step of~~ measuring a reception completion period of time for each said content provision apparatus, said reception completion period of time representing a period between transmission of said division part request information and reception of said division parts from each said content provision apparatus;

~~a reception stop step of~~ stopping to receive said division part from said content provision apparatus when said division part has not been received yet from said content provision apparatus at a time a certain period of time has passed since the start of measuring said reception completion period of time; and

~~a division part request apparatus switch step of~~ switching from said content provision apparatus from which said reception stop ~~step~~ stopped halfway to receive said division part to different said content provision apparatus to request said division part therefrom.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The content acquisition method according to claim 2, further comprising:

~~a reception status update step of~~ sequentially updating a reception end position of each said division part as reception status, while receiving said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus; and

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~~a reception remnant part request information transmission step of transmitting~~  
reception remnant part request information to the content provision apparatus different from said content provision apparatus from which said reception stop ~~step~~ stopped halfway to receive said division part to request a reception remnant part which is a part of said division part not received completely, said reception remnant part request information including said content identification information, and said reception end position and division end position of said division part not received completely.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition apparatus comprising:

request information transmission means for transmitting request information to an external section in response to a request for content data, said request information requesting address information of a plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and data size information of said content data;

information reception means for receiving from said external section said address information of said plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and said data size information of said content data, after said request information transmission means transmits said request information;

division position determination means for determining division start positions and division end positions specifying division parts of said content data to request said content data in divided form from said plurality of content provision apparatus, based on

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the number of pieces of said address information and said data size information received by said information reception means;

division part request information transmission means for transmitting division part request information including content identification information of said content data, and said division start positions and division end positions of said division parts of said content data, such that each said division part is requested from different said content provision apparatus;

division part reception means for receiving said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus after said division part request information transmission means transmits said division part request information;

temporarily storing means for temporarily storing said division parts received by said division part reception means; and

data restoring means for combining said division parts temporarily stored by said temporarily storing means to restore said content data.

Claim 5 (Original): The content acquisition apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

measurement means for measuring a reception completion period of time for each said content provision apparatus, said reception completion period of time representing a period between transmission of said division part request information and reception of said division parts from each said content provision apparatus;

reception stop means for stopping to receive said division part from said content provision apparatus when said division part has not been received yet from said content provision apparatus at a time a certain period of time has passed since the start of measuring said reception completion period of time; and

division part request apparatus switch means for switching from said content provision apparatus from which said reception stop means stopped halfway to receive said division part to different said content provision apparatus to request said division part therefrom.

Claim 6 (Original): The content acquisition apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a reception status update means for sequentially updating a reception end position of each said division part as reception status, while receiving said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus; and

a reception remnant part request information transmission means for transmitting reception remnant part request information to the content provision apparatus different from said content provision apparatus from which said reception stop means stopped halfway to receive said division part to request a reception remnant part which is a part of said division part not received completely, said reception remnant part request information including said content identification information, and said reception end position and division end position of said division part not received completely.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium, encoded with computer program instructions, executable by a computer and operative to cause the computer to implement a method of content acquisition, comprising: ~~program for causing information processing apparatus to execute:~~

~~a request information transmission step of~~ transmitting request information to an external section in response to a request for content data, said request information requesting address information of a plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and data size information of said content data;

~~an information reception step of~~ receiving from said external section said address information of said plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and said data size information of said content data, after transmitting said request information;

~~a division position determination step of~~ determining division start positions and division end positions specifying division parts of said content data to request said content data in divided form from said plurality of content provision apparatus, based on the number of pieces of said address information and said data size information received ~~by said information reception step;~~

~~a division part request information transmission step of~~ transmitting division part request information including content identification information of said content data, and said division start positions and division end positions of said division parts of said

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content data, such that each said division part is requested from different said content provision apparatus;

~~a division part reception step of receiving said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus after transmitting said division part request information;~~

~~a temporarily storing step of temporarily storing said division parts received by said division part reception step;~~ and

~~a data restoring step of combining said division parts temporarily stored by said temporarily storing step to restore said content data.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A content acquisition system including a plurality of content provision apparatus providing content data and content acquisition apparatus acquiring said content data from said plurality of content provision apparatus, the content acquisition system wherein:

said content acquisition apparatus includes:

request information transmission means for transmitting request information to an external section in response to a request for said content data, said request information requesting address information of said plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~ providing said content data, and data size information of said content data;

information reception means for receiving from said external section said address information of said plurality of content provision apparatus which provide ~~capable of~~



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providing said content data, and said data size information of said content data, after said request information transmission means transmits said request information;

division position determination means for determining division start positions and division end positions specifying division parts of said content data to request said content data in divided form from said plurality of content provision apparatus, based on the number of pieces of said address information and said data size information received by said information reception means;

division part request information transmission means for transmitting division part request information including content identification information of said content data, and said division start positions and division end positions of said division parts of said content data, such that each said division part is requested from different said content provision apparatus;

division part reception means for receiving said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus after said division part request information transmission means transmits said division part request information;

temporarily storing means for temporarily storing said division parts received by said division part reception means; and

data restoring means for combining said division parts temporarily stored by said temporarily storing means to restore said content data; and

said content provision apparatus includes:

division part request information reception means for receiving said division part request information from said content acquisition apparatus;

division means for dividing said content data corresponding to said content identification information to extract said division part from between said division start position and division end position of said content data in response to said division part request information received by said division part request information reception means, said content identification information, said division start position, and said division end position being shown in said division part request information; and

division part transmission means for transmitting to said content acquisition apparatus said division part divided from said content data by said division means.

***Allowable Subject matter***

3. Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The examiner deems claims 1-8 as novel when viewed as a whole for the limitations of Content Acquisition Method.

The closest prior art of record, Nakayama discloses, a content acquisition method (Nakayama: col. 1, lines 20-29) comprising: a request information transmission step of transmitting request information to an external section in response to a request for content data (Nakayama: abs. lines 4-6), said request information requesting address information of a plurality of content provision apparatus capable of providing said

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content data (Nakayama: col. 4, lines 32-41), an information reception step of receiving from said external section said address information of said plurality of content provision apparatus capable of providing said content data, and said data size information of said content data, after transmitting said request information (Nakayama: col. 5, lines 16-25);

However, the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature of the limitations cited above added with ~~a division position determination step of~~ determining, at the content acquisition apparatus division start positions and division end positions specifying division parts of said content data to request said content data in divided form from said plurality of content provision apparatus, based on the number of pieces of said address information and said data size information received by said information reception ~~step~~;

~~a division part request information transmission step of transmitting, from the~~ content acquisition apparatus division part request information including content identification information of said content data, and said division start positions and division end positions of said division parts of said content data, such that each said division part is requested from different said content provision apparatus;

~~a division part reception step of receiving, at the content acquisition apparatus~~ said division parts from said plurality of content provision apparatus after transmitting said division part request information;

~~a temporarily storing step of temporarily storing said division parts received by~~ said division part reception ~~step~~; and

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~~a data restoring step of combining said division parts temporarily stored by said temporarily storing step~~ to restore said content data.

These features, together with the other limitations of the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claims, are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FAZLUL QUADER whose telephone number is (571)270-1905. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5 Alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FAZLUL QUADER  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2164

/FQ/

/Charles Rones/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164